

Message Text

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PAGE 01 YAOUND 02523 240013Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /035 W
-----094176 240017Z /15/11
R 191630Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5558

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE YAOUNDE 2523

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT CM
SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS; ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN

REF: YAOUNDE 2363

1. ON MAY 13 PRESIDENT AHIDJO AND AYISSI MVODO, MINISTER OF TERRITORI
AL
ADMINISTRATION AND POLITICAL SECRETARY OF THE PARTY OPENED OFFICALLY
THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE MAY 28 LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS.
THE CAMPAIGN WILL END AT MIDNIGHT 27 MAY.

2. THE CAMPAIGN SERVES TWO MAIN PURPOSES. THE INTENT IS TO EDUCATE
THE POPULACE ON THE ROLE THAT DEPUTIES PLAY IN LINKING GOVERNMENTAL
AUTHORITIES WITH THE GENERAL POPULATION IN KEEPING WITH THE CNU
POLICY OF "AUTHORITY FROM ABOVE, POWER AND CONFIDENCE FROM BELOW".
SECONDLY, THE CAMPAIGN ATTEMPTS TO POLITICIZE THE MASSES AND
SOLICIT COMMITMENT TO THE PLAN OF ACTION DEVISED AND ORCHESTRATED
FROM ABOVE.

3. POLITICAL RALLIES HAVE COMMENCED IN THE MAJOR CITIES YAOUNDE, DOUAL
A,
KNOGSAMBA AND IN ALL THE PROVINCES. INTENSIFICATION OF CAMPAIGN
IS EXPECTED IN ORDER TO INSURE MASSIVE TURN OUT IN SUPPORT OF CNU
LIST. FAILURE TO GAIN AT LEAST 95 PERCENT POPULAR ENDORSEMENT
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IN EACH OF THE CONSTITUTENCIES OF CNU CANDIDATES WOULD
CONSTITUTE FAILURE IN THE EYES OF GOVERNMENT. AFTER INTENSE
INFIGHTING AMONG 2,918 CANDIDATES DURING HUSTINGS, CNU
SELECTION 120 CANDIDATES FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. 97 CANDIDATES
WERE RETAINED AND 23 NEW CANDIDATES WERE SELECTED FOR THE
PARTY LIST. CANDIDATES WERE SUPPOSEDLY CHOSEN ON THE BASIS
OF "RESOURCEFULNESS, LOYALTY, MORALITY, PERSEVERANCE". SO

FAR, THE CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN CONDUCTED ACTIVELY AND SMOOTHLY
UNDER AUSPICES OF COORDINATING COMMITTEES SELECTED BY THE
CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF CNU.

4. COMMENT: THE INTENSE EFFORT TO MOBILIZE THE POPULATION
MAY PAY DIVIDENDS IN TERMS OF WIDE SUPPORT AT THE POLLS.
HOWEVER, IT IS MORE PROBLEMATICAL WHETHER SUCH SUPPORT
CAN BE RIGHTFULLY CONSTRUED AS A STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT
TO THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CNU OR AS
COMPLIANCE WITHIN THE STRICTURES OF THE SINGLE PARTY STRUCTURE.
IN ANY EVENT, THE BALLOTS ON MAY 28 WILL PROVIDE THE
MEDIUM FOR POPULAR EXPRESSION WHICH WILL REVEAL THE
EFFECTIVENESS OF CNU MOBILIZATIONAL EFFORTS.
SMYTHE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978YAOUND02523
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780223-0362
Format: TEL
From: YAOUNDE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780538/aaaabgei.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9873179a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 YAOUNDE 2363
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2630581
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS: ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN
TAGS: PINT, CM
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9873179a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014